

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20

DRC-01 (ADP) W

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R 111011Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: ARVN FORCES RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA

FOLG TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG NKP RTAFB
FM NHATRANG 10 SEP 73 REPEATED FYINFOC

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: ARVN FORCES RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA

1. GENERAL TOAN TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT ARVN FORCES OCCUPIED
TRUNG NGHIA ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (SEPT 7 AND 8) AND ARE NOW
DRIVING TOWARDS POLEI KRONG. THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN, HE SAID, ON
SEPT 4 WITH ARVN ATTACKS ON ENEMY POSITIONS TO THE NORTH OF
TRUNG NGHIA IN WHICH SOME 100 ENEMY WERE KILLED. NTHE FINAL
OCCUPATION OF THE VILLAGE ITSELF APPARENTLY ENCOUNTERED LITTLE
RESISTANCE--TH ENEMY HAD DEPARTED BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE
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WENT. THE GENERAL SEEMED ELATED BY THE OUTCOME AND CONFIDENT

THAT HIS FORCES WOULD SOON BE ON THE BANKS OF THE POKO.

2. STRANGELY ENOUGH, WORD OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT WAS VERY SLOW IN REACHING US. AT THE II CORPS BRIEFING IN NHA TRANG THIS MORNING (SEPT 10) THERE WAS NO MENTION OF IT. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO THE BRIEFING, ACTIVITY IN THE KONTUM AREA DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS WAS NIL. EARLIER BRIEFINGS GAVE NO HINT OF IT EITHER. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING THIS MORNING I HAD OCCASION TO TALK WITH THE DEPUTY II CORPS COMMANDER HERE, COLONEL DUC, WHO INDICATED THAT TRUNG NGHIA WAS NOW IN GVN HANDS. HE SAID THE LACK OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE KONTUM AREA WAS BECAUSE THE ENEMY WAS PROBABLY REGROUPING SOMEWHERE. HE EXPECTED A COUNTER-ATTACK WOULD COME SHORTLY. WHEN I FOLLOWED UP ON THIS WITH GENERAL TOAN HE CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION BUT DID NOT SEEM CONCERNED ABOUT A COUNTER-ATTACK.

3. FURTHER INFO AND DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS WE LEARN THEM. THE ARVN FORCE RESPONSIBLE IS THE 42ND REGT OF THE 22ND DIV WHICH HAS RECENTLY MOVED IN TO RELIEVE THE 45TH. HOWEVER, SOME BORDER RANGER UNITS MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED BUT THIS IS NOT CERTAIN.

COOK

UNQUOTE.

APPLING

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NNN

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